

way for Federal protection of exceptional lands for public use.

As the number of early parks increased, many recognized the need for their collective management. The National Park Service was created by an act of Congress signed by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916. Today, almost 78 years later, the National Park Service oversees 367 national parks, including historic sites, monuments, parks, lakeshores, seashores, rivers, and scenic trails. The growth of the park system is a result of the American public's desire to protect the best and most significant treasures of our Nation.

National parks across the country, from Denali National Park in Alaska to Acadia National Park in Maine, allow us to learn more about our environment; they teach us to respect our lands and to care about endangered plant and animal species. Their spectacular scenic beauty and wide variety of wildlife link man and nature intrinsically and universally. The cultural and historic parks connect us with the spirit of our past and form a national family tree, celebrating our triumphs and remembering our tragedies.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of May 23 through May 29, 1994, as "National Park Week." I encourage all Americans to join me in making National Park Week a truly American celebration of our heritage. We are challenged to protect and preserve our parks, to cherish them first, then to teach our children to do the same, so that they, too, can give this gift to their children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:11 a.m., April 15, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 18.

Proclamation 6671—Death of Those Aboard American Helicopters In Iraq

April 14, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for those who died as a result of the tragic incident in northern Iraq, which occurred on April 14, 1994, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by section 175 of title 36 of the United States Code, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, Monday, April 18, 1994. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:47 a.m., April 15, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 18.

Nomination for an Under Secretary at the Department of the Treasury

April 14, 1994

The President today announced the nomination of Assistant Treasury Secretary Ronald K. Noble as Treasury Under Secretary for Enforcement.

"I am pleased to nominate Ron to this newly created and critically important position," the President said. "I am confident

that his proven leadership and skilled service in the area of law enforcement will continue to contribute greatly to our fight against crime.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meeting With Prime Minister Tansu Ciller of Turkey
April 14, 1994

President Clinton offered his condolences to the Turkish Prime Minister and to the families and loved ones of those Turkish citizens who lost their lives today in the accident in northern Iraq. Prime Minister Ciller expressed her own sorrow at the loss of life.

The President and Prime Minister Ciller discussed her economic reform package. He urged her to move forward quickly with her reform program and to work closely with the International Monetary Fund. The two leaders also discussed the situation in Cyprus. President Clinton and Prime Minister Ciller agreed to continue to do what they can to make progress soon in the talks on the confidence building measures package.

Remarks on the American Helicopter Tragedy in Iraq and an Exchange With Reporters
April 15, 1994

The President. Hello. The people here from Louisiana and Texas are here primarily for health care, and I apologize for the delay. But I met for an hour and a half this morning with my national security team about a variety of issues, but I wanted to say in particular a word of update about the terrible tragedy in Iraq yesterday.

After I met yesterday with my national security advisers, I spoke with Prime Minister Major and with President Mitterrand, expressed my condolences for the losses of French and British citizens, and assured them of what I can now reassure you about, which is that we've put together an investigative team which is now on the site and is working. We will move as quickly as possible

to do a thorough and complete investigation and then to put out all the facts.

In a couple of hours, an hour or so, the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be having a briefing at the Pentagon to discuss this further and to answer further questions. But we are going to stay on top of this, work through it, and make a full report to the American people.

If there are any other questions—perhaps we could take some questions on foreign policy or any other national issues for a while, and then we'll come back to the health care questioning.

Iraq

Q. Sir, in light of that shooting down, should the peacekeeping mission in Iraq continue?

The President. Oh, I think so. I very definitely think so. Keep in mind these people—the tragedy of this is that both sets of planes, the two helicopters and the two planes were there trying to save the lives of the Kurds. And I think it has performed a very valuable function, not only in saving the lives of the Kurds but in permitting them to continue to live in northern Iraq and relieving Turkey of a very serious potential refugee problem.

There is no question in my mind that it has been a very successful and a very important mission. The Secretary of Defense implied yesterday and said again today that we would obviously, in the course of this investigation, be reviewing all the tactical issues involved. But our policy is sound, and I believe it should continue.

Bosnia

Q. In Bosnia, sir, there's another issue of peacekeeping. You have recent events by the Bosnian Serbs' actions that have been taken against U.N. peacekeepers and military observers. You yesterday made a statement you've been sending a message to them. But apparently, that message has not been getting across. Why is that, would you say? And is there a chance that there could be a stalemate emerging?

The President. Well, I think that some friction was predictable when the policy began. But let me remind you that since the